

in the present case ; and third, that upon no point has medical testimony been more unanimous in this neighbourhood, than that typhoid fever is remarkably present in farm-houses in this district. In fact it has been mentioned to me as a matter for inquiry on my part, as medical officer of health, that from some farms which have been named to me, though healthily situated, and standing apart from towns and town pollutions, typhoid fever is seldom absent. Therefore, taking the former facts in connection with this testimony, I have no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that the accumulation of liquid and solid manure, in close proximity to a dwelling, is a nuisance injurious to health, and to be dealt with accordingly, being a manifest occasion, as proved in innumerable instances, of the development of that most calamitous of all preventable diseases, typhoid fever. My future practice and advice will be in harmony with the axiom just laid down." I may mention that three of these cases terminated fatally. The above report has been printed by order of the Board.

December 3.—Similar outbreak in farm at Great Clifton. Water pure. Case identical in all respects with above.

I might multiply such cases freely, but the above will suffice.

The conclusion, then, that I would draw is this: that in the present state of our ætiological knowledge we are not justified in supposing that positive typhoid excreta are necessarily to be looked for in an outbreak of typhoid fever ; on the other hand, that decomposing excrement of man or animals, allowed to remain exposed in atmospheric influences near a dwelling, may be productive of that disease in a virulent and fatal form. This, I take it, is the "working theory" on the subject, to which our powers and our practice should be made conformable.

What I contend for is, that the law should go a step further, and render it penal to have a privy so destitute of arrangement that the excrement should be uncovered, spreading itself upon, and being washed into, the surrounding soil, and throwing off every moment pestilential, fever-breeding emanations. It should be within the statute to enforce the confinement of the offensive matter, and the disinfection or covering of every daily accession to the contents of the privy. Until this is done, the settled, fixed, and well-proven laws of sanitary science in regard to cholera, typhoid fever, and diarrhœa, find no acknowledgment in the statute book of our country.